GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2640
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2002
INTEGRATED RURAL ENERGY PROGRAMME
MANSINH PATEL

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the main features and the manner in which the Integrated Rural Energy Programme is being implemented in Gujarat;

(b) whether the Government have conducted a study in regard to the progress made towards the implementation of this programme in the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether this programme has been yielding desired results in the States;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN)

(a): The main features of the Integrated Rural Energy Programme include provision of optimum mix of energy sources, to the extent possible, for meeting energy needs for subsistence and productive purposes, through preparation and implementation of block level integrated rural energy plans and projects. The implementation of IREP in Gujarat, and other States, is being carried out through two components, namely, the Central sector component under which support is provided for development of capabilities, including provision of staff and their training, and the State sector component under which financial support is provided under the State outlay for promoting various rural energy devices, extension and other related activities. The Integrated Rural Energy Programme (IREP) is under implementation in 19 Blocks in Gujarat where the programme is being implemented by the State Nodal Agency- Gujarat Energy Development Agency.

(b): Yes, Sir.

(c): The latest study on the progress of the IREP entitled `Analysis of IREPand Development of Capacity Building Strategy,` was taken up by the Government with the support of United Nations Development Programme, in twelve States, including Gujaratn the year 1999-2000. The study has brought out that as a result of IREP, minimum infrastructure for preparing rural energy plans and projects at the district and State levels have been set up. Further, IREP has enabled rural people and field development officials to appreciate different dimensions of the rural energy problem and how it should be tackled. IREP has also brought about large-scale awareness about new and renewable energy and need for conservation of energy in rural areas. The study has recommended that IREP should be consolidated; higher levels of support should be provided by the State Governments; and monitoring of the programme should be strengthened.

(d), (e) & (f): As brought out in the above study, IREP has achieved success in some aspects, but the implementation aspect needs to be strengthened in Gujarat, among other States, for which increased flow of resources is required from the State Governments.